

Executive Summary

- The average consumer cost of drinking water in Utah is **\$32.96 per month per connection**. This figure includes only user billings and taxes. It does not include impact fees, connection fees or other sources of water supplier revenue.
- The average Utah consumer cost, \$32.96 per month per connection, is comprised of the following: \$27.20 from retail billings (83%) and \$5.76 from taxes (17%).
- The unit cost of drinking water in Utah is \$1.39 per 1000 gallons. This figure reflects billings and taxes. It does not include impact fees, connection fees or other sources of water supplier revenue.
- In 2002, Utah's drinking water systems received \$262 million in revenue from billings, taxes, impact fees and connection fees.
- In 2002, the statewide Median Adjust Gross Income (MAGI) in Utah was \$32,266 per year. The average Utah connection had a culinary water bill of \$32.96 per month, or \$396 per year. Thus, the average yearly culinary water bill amounts to 1.22% of statewide MAGI.
- Most Utah water systems (61%) have a "uniform" rate structure. That is, for overages, the unit cost of water remains the same as water use increases. However, it is noteworthy that the percentage of systems with "increasing" rate structures has increased from 28% to 36% since 1999. "Increasing" rate structures tend to promote water conservation.
- 58% of Utah's drinking water systems have a secondary irrigation system (either piped or ditch) available in at least some part of their service area. (The costs associated with irrigation service are not included in this survey.)
- Only 27% of Utah's systems collect significant funds which are held in reserve for future improvements.
- 16% of Utah's systems are currently inadequate, worn out or have significant immediate problems.
- 68% of Utah's systems have submitted water management and conservation plans.
- In the next four years, Utah's water suppliers will spend approximately \$154 million per year on new projects.

- In the next twenty years, Utah's water suppliers will spend approximately \$2.6 billion on new projects. However, this estimate must be used cautiously because data is lacking in this area.
- 60% of Utah's community water systems do not have master plans.